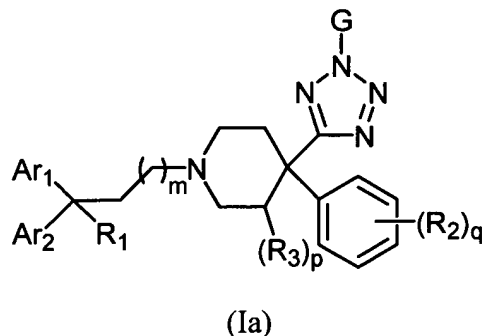


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (Ia):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

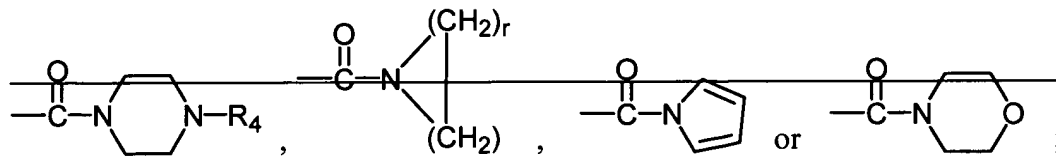
Ar₁ is -C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl, phenanthryl or -(5- to 7-membered) heteroaryl, each being unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R₂ groups;

Ar₂ is phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl, phenanthryl or -(5- to 7-membered) heteroaryl, each being unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R₂ groups;

G is -H, -L-(CH₂)_nCO₂R₄, -L-(CH₂)_nR₅, -(C₁-C₅ alkylene)CO₂R₄, or (C₁-C₅ alkylene)R₅;

L = -C(O)-, -SO₂- or -SO-;

R₁ = H, -C(O)NH₂, -C(O)NHOH, -CO₂R₄, -CHO, -CN, -(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -C(O)NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), or -C(O)N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)₂;



R₂ and R₃ are each independently -halogen, -C₁-C₃ alkyl, -O(C₁-C₃ alkyl), -NH(C₁-C₃ alkyl) or -N(C₁-C₃ alkyl)₂;

R₄ = -H, -C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, -CH₂O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CH₂N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)₂, or -CH₂NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl);

$R_5 = -NH_2, -NHSO_2R_4, -C(O)NH_2, -C(O)NHOH, -SO_2NH_2, -C(O)NH(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl}), -C(O)N(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})_2, -SO_2NH(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl}), -SO_2N(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})_2, -H, -OH, -CN, -C_3-C_8 \text{ cycloalkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl, phenanthryl, or -(5- to 7-membered) heteroaryl, each being unsubstituted or substituted with one or more } R_2 \text{ groups ;}$

$m = \text{an integer ranging from 0 to 4;}$

$n = \text{an integer ranging from 1 to 4;}$

$p = 0 \text{ or } 1; \text{ and}$

$q = \text{an integer ranging from 0 to 3; and}$

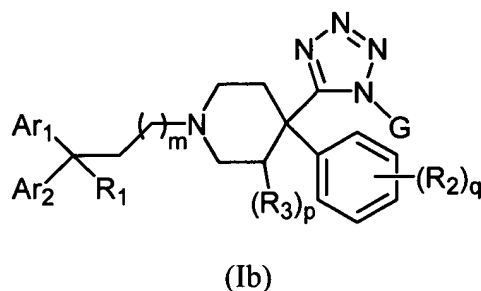
~~$r = \text{an integer ranging from 1 to 6.}$~~

2. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1, wherein Ar_1 and Ar_2 are phenyl.
3. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1, wherein $m = 1$ and $G = H$.
4. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 is $-C(O)NH_2, -C(O)NH(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ or $-C(O)N(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$.
5. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 is $-CN$.
6. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1, wherein $p = 0$ and $q = 0$.
7. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1, wherein $G = -(CH_2)_2NHSO_2H$.
8. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1, wherein $G = -CH_2C(O)NH_2, -CH_2C(O)NH(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ or $-CH_2C(O)N(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$.
9. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1, wherein $G = -(CH_2)_2C(O)OCH_2CH_3$.

10. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1, wherein $G = -(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$.
11. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1, wherein $p = 1$.
12. (Original) A composition comprising an effective amount of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

Claims 13-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (Ib):



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

Ar₁ is -C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl, phenanthryl, or -(5- to 7-membered) heteroaryl, each being unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R₂ groups;

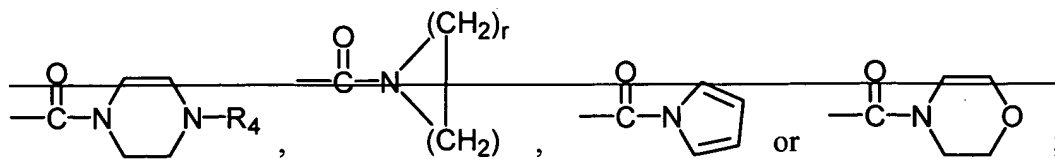
Ar₂ is phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl, phenanthryl, or -(5- to 7-membered) heteroaryl, each being unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R₂ groups;

G = H, -L(CH₂)_nC(O)OR₄, -L(CH₂)_nR₅, (C₁-C₅ alkylene)COOR₄, or -(C₁-C₅ alkylene)R₅;

$$L = -C(O)-, -SO_2-, \text{ or } -SO-;$$

$R_1 = -H, -C(O)NH_2, -C(O)NHOH, -CO_2R_4, -CHO, -CN, -(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl}),$

-C(O)NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), or -C(O)N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)₂;



R₂ and R₃ are each independently halogen, -C₁-C₃ alkyl, -O(C₁-C₃ alkyl), -NH(C₁-C₃ alkyl), or -N(C₁-C₃ alkyl)₂;

R₄ = -H, -C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, -CH₂O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CH₂N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)₂, or -CH₂NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl);

R₅ = -NH₂, -NHSO₂R₄, -C(O)NH₂, -C(O)NHOH, -SO₂NH₂, -C(O)NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -C(O)N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)₂, -SO₂NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)₂, -H, -OH, -CN, -C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl, phenanthryl, or -(5- to 7-membered) heteroaryl, each being unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R₂ groups;

m = an integer ranging from 0 to 4;

n = an integer ranging from 1 to 4;

p = 0 or 1; and

q = an integer ranging from 0 to 3; and .

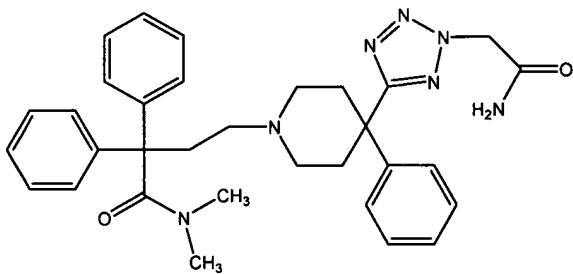
~~r = an integer ranging from 1 to 6.~~

22. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 21, wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ are phenyl.
23. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 21, wherein m = 1 and G = H.
24. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 21, wherein R₁ is -C(O)NH₂, -C(O)NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl) or -C(O)N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₄ alkyl).
25. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 21, wherein R₁ is -CN.
26. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 21, wherein p = 0 and q = 0.
27. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 21, wherein G = -(CH₂)₂NHSO₂H.

28. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 21, wherein G = $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4 \text{ alkyl})$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4 \text{ alkyl})(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4 \text{ alkyl})$.
29. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 21, wherein G = $-(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$.
30. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 21, wherein G = $-(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$.
31. (Original) The compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 21, wherein $p = 1$.
32. (Original) A composition comprising an effective amount of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the compound of claim 21 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

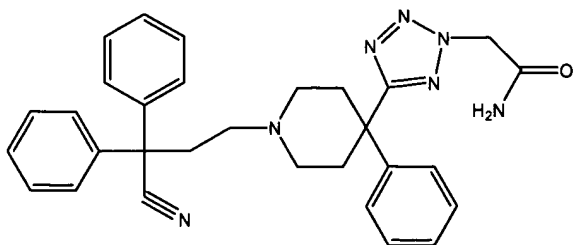
Claims 33-111 (Canceled).

112. (New) A compound of formula



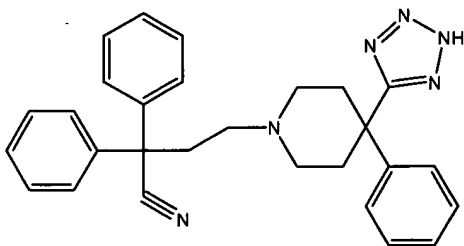
or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

113. (New) A compound of formula



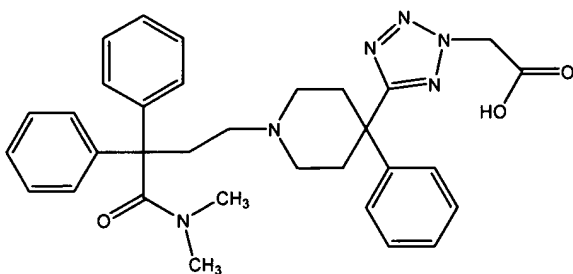
or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

114. (New) A compound of formula



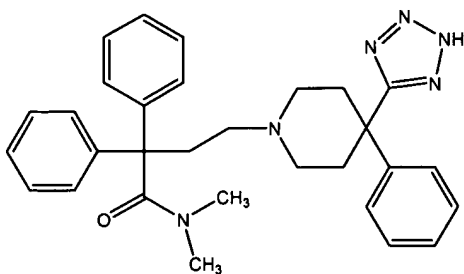
or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

115. (New) A compound of formula



or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.

116. (New) A compound of formula



or a pharmaceutical salt thereof.